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VISION رؤية 2030
المملكة العربية السعودية
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA



50 YEARS OF
GLOBAL IMPACT

Saudi Well Drilling and Rural Development Program in Africa 2024

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Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched the Saudi Well Drilling and Rural Development Program in Africa in response to requests from African countries during the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 1981. Since the early 1970s, African countries had been suffering from drought, which has severely affected the natural life in those countries so that it has become a defining challenge for the whole continent. In response, the Program was launched to bring direct relief to rural communities of African countries, by drilling and equipping water wells to provide potable water for local communities. In addition to overreaching benefits affecting the agricultural and livestock sectors, including supporting hundreds of thousands of livestock in those rural areas, this Project has significant impacts that go beyond providing potable water, contributing to improved health, economic, and social conditions in the rural communities of the beneficiary countries. Moreover, water projects hold a paramount significance, impacting all local and international development plans and objectives for every country. Within the framework of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the outcomes of such projects are reflected in Target (7.C) of Goal 7, which calls for ensuring environmental sustainability by reducing the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water". This commitment to providing drinking water has continued under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal (6): Clean water and sanitation, which aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Furthermore, the Program underpins Goal (2): Zero Hunger, which focuses on achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. Since its inception, the Program has prioritized the active engagement of beneficiaries across various implementation phases, particularly operations and maintenance, environmental conservation, and management and supervision of water points collectively, as well as the adoption of distribution mechanisms for well beneficiaries.



The Saudi Well Drilling and Rural Development Program in Africa

Launch
1981

Implemntation Began
1982

Contribution
The Program was established with an initial funding of USD 100 million

Program Implementation Phases

Phase (1)
1982 – 1988

100
USD Million

Phase (2)
1987 – 1991

30
USD Million

Phase (3)
1997 – 2005

50
USD Million


Motivation
Contributing directly to mitigating drought impacts
Main Objective
Drilling and equipping potable water wells for the population
Phase (4)
2007 – 2016
50
USD Million
Phase (5)
2017
100
USD Million
Total
330
USD Million

The Developmental Impact of the Saudi Well Drilling and Rural Development Program in Africa

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The Program contributes to achieving the "Zero Hunger" Goal, which focuses on ensuring food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.



The Program contributes to reducing epidemics and waterborne diseases while expanding access to clean water.



The Program enhances access to clean water and sanitation by providing drinking water and essential sanitation services.

Benefits

- Supporting agricultural development by providing water resources necessary for irrigation and livestock farming.
- Improving the health, economic, and social conditions.
- Improving the quality of life for the population by providing clean drinking water and improving public health.

Achievements

- Drilling and equipping 6,302 water facilities.
- Providing potable water to remote rural areas.
- Number of Beneficiaries: More than 4.5 million people.

No. of Wells and Allocated Amount for Each Country Following the Completion of Phase (4)

Benin	Burkina Faso	Chad	Togo	Cape Verde
137	1,505	386	120	77
3	25.2	27.9	3	13.1

Gambia	Djibouti	Senegal	Guinea	Guinea Bissau
360	8	94	612	231
15.6	3	23	24.5	13.3

Mali	Mauritania	Niger	Total
1,659	149	964	6,302
31	20.7	26.7	230

No. of Wells Total Amount Allocated (USD Million)

Phase (5)

In **2017**, Phase (5) of the Program commenced, with an allocated funding of USD **100** million for drilling and equipping **2,500** wells. This Phase is still under implementation and is projected to benefit over **1.5** million people across various rural regions. Upon completion of this Phase, the total funding allocated for all Program phases will reach USD **330** million, covering drilling and equipping **8,800** wells. These efforts contributes to improving the lives of more than **4.5** million people across the African continent.

The Value of the Approved Amounts for Each Country During Phase (5)

Somalia	Gambia	Senegal	Niger	Uganda	Benin	Burkina Faso
2	4	8	9	4	5	6

Chad	Tanzania	Togo	Djibouti	Sierra Leone	Guinea Bissau	Guinea
7	2	5	4	5	3	8

Cote d'Ivoire	Kenya	Mali	Mauritania	Mozambique	Total
6	5	7	6	4	100

Total Amount Allocated (USD Million)

Types of Water Sources Implemented in Africa Under the Saudi Program



Wells equipped with hand pumps



Deep wells equipped with solar-powered pumping systems, water tanks, and distribution networks



Traditional open wells







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